

of alcohol or drugs. Harold was successful in obtaining a federal grant of \$500,000 to form the DUI task force.

In 1986 he was named by President Ronald Reagan to serve on the National Highway Transportation Safety Advisory Committee. While serving on the NHTSA board, Harold was instrumental in getting the child safety restraint bill and seat belt law passed in the state legislature. Tennessee was the first state in the nation to pass the Child Safety restraint bill and the bill became a model for the rest of the nation. He should take great satisfaction in knowing that many lives have been saved across the country because of this legislation.

In 1986, Commissioner Coker also began an effort to improve the image of Chattanooga by working to create a river port and a river walk to add to the city's growth, development and livability. He only hoped to live long enough to see this project fully realized. I am pleased to report that the project will be completed this year before he leaves office in August.

Another one of Commissioner Coker's primary concerns during his 20 years of public service has been economic development. He was instrumental in establishing industrial parks, enterprise zones, and citizen action groups that will benefit the area for generations to come.

Harold believed that a good education directly contributed to his success as a business owner and he was inspired to increase funding for schools as a County Commissioner. He voted for increases in teacher pay and as a result starting teacher's salaries have more than doubled during his tenure on the County Commission.

The Coker family was awarded the Great American Family Community Award in 1983; he received the Sertoma Service to Mankind Award in 1985; he was named Volunteer of the Year for the Heart Association in 1987; and he was the recipient of the Public Education Foundation Award in 2000.

Commissioner Coker will leave office at the end of his final term in August of 2002. I would like to personally thank him for his tireless efforts to make a difference in the lives of the people who live in the Tennessee Valley. We will miss his leadership, but his vision and principled stands will serve as a legacy and a lesson for all who are fortunate to be called a "public servant."

#### THE OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ACT

**HON. HEATHER WILSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2002*

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, in the west, citizens from all walks of life have deep-rooted cultural and historic ties to the land. This legislation will amend the National Trails System Act and designate the Old Spanish Trail, which originates in Santa Fe, New Mexico and continues to Los Angeles, California, as a National Historic Trail.

The Old Spanish Trail dates back to 1829 when it had a variety of uses, from trade caravans to military expeditions. For twenty plus years, the Old Spanish Trail was used as a main route of travel between New Mexico and

California. Numerous Indian Pueblos were situated along the trail serving as trading forums for the travelers. Today, more than one hundred and fifty years after the first caravans on the Old Spanish Trail, the historic charter of the trail lives on and the trail remains relatively unchanged since the trail period.

The Old Spanish Trail is a symbol of cultural interaction between various ethnic groups and nations. Further, it is a symbol of the commercial exchange that made development and growth popular, not only in the west, but throughout the country.

The National Trails system was established by the National Trails System Act of 1968, to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and appreciation of the open air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Nation. Designating the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail would allow for just what the act has intended, preservation, access, enjoyment and appreciation of the historic resources of our Nation. The Old Spanish Trail has been significant in many respects to many different people and such rich history should not be left out of our National Trails System. Designating the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail will protect this historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment indefinitely.

#### MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATOR STEVEN A. BADDOUR'S SWEARING IN SPEECH

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 6, 2002*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, my good friend Steven A. Baddour was elected to the Third Essex Seat of the Massachusetts State Senate in a special election held on January 8, 2002. Steve is a former Assistant Attorney General for Massachusetts and also served as an Economic Development Specialist in my Massachusetts offices.

On January 23, 2002, Steve delivered his first speech as a State Senator. It was an eloquent and moving address. Without objection, I submit the text of his remarks:

Thank You.

Your Excellency, thank you very much. I look forward to working with you throughout the years to come.

Mr. President, thank you as well. On behalf of the people of the Third Essex District, I want to thank you for your commitment to democracy and representation. The fact that you scheduled this election, so soon after the resignation of the now Secretary of Public Safety, is proof that you place public service over politics. Thank you.

Speaking of the Secretary of Public Safety, I want to thank him for his unwavering commitment on behalf of the citizens he represented with such distinction and honor. It is truly an honor for me to succeed by friend and mentor, the Secretary of Public Safety. Please join me in thanking him for all that he has done for the citizens he has so ably represented.

Attorney General Tom Reilly—thank you so much for being here and for all that you have done for me. As the leader of the best professional public law office—you have said repeatedly—you expect nothing but the best of your employees—and as the newspapers are reporting day after day—it shows. You

are a mentor and a good friend and I am so proud to have worked for you. You gave me a chance and hired me, and more importantly, you gave me an opportunity to represent the entire Commonwealth and fight for working families—a valuable experience that will benefit me and the district that I now represent. To all of the Assistant Attorney General's who are here, thank you for friendship and your commitment to public service. You are the unsung heroes of state government.

To the local officials who are here today and to those who could not make it, I pledge to you my cooperation and vow to work with you to make our government better for the people we collectively represent.

I would not be here today if it were not for the support of so many people, actually just about everyone in this room. To those of you whom are here in this historic chamber today for the first time—come back. The energy and enthusiasm you displayed during this campaign is needed in government. Get involved and stay involved. This is your government and your input, now more than ever, is greatly needed.

I especially want to thank someone whom I love very much and if not for her support I would not be here. I always knew during the campaign and even before that if I had a bad day, I could just go home and get all the support I needed. My wife Ann may be quiet but she is strong and I couldn't ask for a better friend, wife and mother to my child. Ann, thank you.

My life changed forever in December. And no not because of the election. But because of the birth of my first daughter Isabella. I now know what the term "daddy's little girl" means. The first time she looked at me and smiled it was all over. I hope that someday, she smiles at me and says that she is proud of the work I did as a member of the Massachusetts State Senate.

I also want to thank the members of my family. I learned at a very early age the importance of community. My parents Shae and Phyllis were great role models and I want to thank them for their love and support over the years. They deserve a round of applause because if it were not for their nurturing and encouragement, I would not be here today. My step-mother Marie is also here and I want to thank her for the countless hours she spent on the telephone and for all that she has done for me over the years.

My brother Shae is also here today with his wife Michelle and their three children, Matthew, Nicole and Shaena. I want to thank them, especially my brother, for always being there when I needed him. He is a great brother, but more importantly a great husband and a super dad.

To my new colleagues, I look forward to working with each of you. I look forward to building a friendship. Over the next few days, I will be calling each of you to set a meeting where we can sit down and begin to build a friendship as well as a partnership. I look forward to working with you as a productive member of this great body.

To my supporters I pledge to work every day fighting for the issues that I campaigned on. Opening the political process, a commitment to education, especially Adult learning, and the list goes on. I am a true believer in the phrase coined by Tip O'Neil that all politics is local and I truly look forward to representing and working for the people of Methuen, North Andover, Haverhill, Salisbury, Merrimac, Amesbury and Newburyport.

As anyone can tell—the geography of this district is as diverse as its people. And the challenges that lay in the month's ahead could easily make one turn his or her head the other way from public service. But having already worked for the district, having